

Serial No. 09/989,858

Page 6 of 9

REMARK

Claims 1-17 have been canceled. Applicants amend pending claims 18-23 for clarification. Applicants refer to Fig. 3 and its corresponding description in the specification for an exemplary embodiment of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' 35 U.S.C. § 119 priority claim, but respectfully request that the Examiner also properly acknowledge the receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents. Applicants also request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure for its length and introductory phrase. Applicants remove the objected-to introductory phrase from the Abstract and amend the Abstract to under 150 words. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claims 18-23 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,213, which is commonly-owned by Fujitsu Limited. Applicants' undersigned registered attorney submit a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the double patenting rejection.

Claims 18-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,710,774 to Suh et al. Applicants amend claims 18-23 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited reference, and respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

84119347_1

Serial No. 09/989,858

Page 7 of 9

The Examiner conducted a telephone interview on March 21, 2006 with Applicants' undersigned representative, Mr. Dexter Chang (Reg. No. 44,071). Applicants and Mr. Chang thank the Examiner for his time and consideration. During the interview, the Examiner discussed the § 102 rejection of claims 18-23. In particular, the Examiner contended that the selecting circuit 60 described in Suh et al. selects between signals X1 and X2, and therefore, may output X1 and/or X2 "in serial form."

Applicants respectfully submit that the comparison signals X1 and X2 described in Suh et al. are results of AND gate comparisons of parallel data, as illustrated by elements 41 and 51 in Fig. 2A of Suh et al. As such, X1 and X2 are representations of respective comparison relationships between parallel data. Therefore, the selection between X1 and X2 merely outputs an indication of whether a set of parallel data meets one or another comparison relationship, as illustrated by elements 41 and 51, respectively. Although such selection may output these comparison indication signals X1 and X2 in "a serial form," it would not result in an output of the parallel data being compared—in other words, S1-S8 described in Suh et al.—in serial form. Thus, Suh et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose sampling a part of parallel data, which is identified as provisional region data, serializing this part of parallel data so identified ("serializing" or "converting" this part of parallel data "to serial form"), and outputting the serialized data to a frame synchronous pattern detecting section.

In other words, Suh et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

"[a] frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus, for detecting an actual frame synchronous pattern which is a part of a frame synchronous pattern and is essential to execute frame synchronizing, comprising:

- (a) a provisional-region detection section; and
- (b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

84119347_1

Serial No. 09/989,858

Page 8 of 9

said provisional-region detection section being for sampling, from parallel data according to a synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) transmission system, a part of the parallel data in which said actual frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, said part of the parallel data being identified as provisional region data, and for serializing and outputting the provisional region data to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said frame synchronous pattern detecting section, communicatively connected with said provisional-region detection section, for detecting said actual frame synchronous pattern from the inputted provisional region data," as recited in claim 18. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is patentable over Suh et al. for at least the above-stated reasons. Claims 19-23 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 18 cited above, and are, therefore, patentable over Suh et al. for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

84119347_1

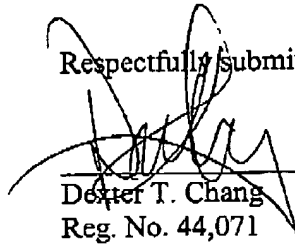
Serial No. 09/989,858

Page 9 of 9

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on

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Respectfully submitted,



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